

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 INRE-00 EB-11 COME-00 SS-15 NSC-10

SCEM-02 SSO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01

DODE-00 RSR-01 OMB-01 USIE-00 EURE-00 /105 W

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O 271730 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1357

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17723

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: NAATO, FR, ETRN, ENGR

SUBJECT: CENTRAL EUROPE PIPELINE SYSTEM (CEPS)

REF: STATE 123102

1. EMBASSY CONTINUES BELIEVE THAT APPROACHING FRENCH ON CEPS TARIFFS AND TAXES QUESTIONS ON " BUSINESSLIKE", NON" POLITICAL BASIS PROVIDES BEST HOPE AVOIDING ADVERSE IMPACT ON CONTINUED USE OF DONGES- METZ PIPELINE. WE HAVE NOT HAD ANY FEEDBACK FROM QUAI OR DEFENSE MINISTRY ON CEPS NEGOTIATIONS. MOREOVER, EMBASSY DOES NOT PLAN INITIATE ANY PROBES HERE SINCE THIS COULD RESULT IN INJECTING " POLITICAL" ELEMENT INTO CEPS NEGOTIATIONS.

2. NEVERTHELESS, AS CEPS NEGOTIATIONS HEAT UP, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND US URGE OTHER ALLIES TO TAKE LEAD IN PRESSING CASE. IF US FINDS ITSELF ISOLATED, FRENCH MAY DRAW CONCLUSION WE ARE PURSUING QUESTION FOR POLITICAL REASONS, THUS UNDERMINING PREMISE OF OUR " BUSINESSLIKE" POSTURE AND POSSIBLY RAISING QUESTION OF POLITICAL BASIS FOR OPERATING DONGES- METZ PIPELINE.

3. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE US NEGOTIATORS, WHILE MAINTAINING
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STRONG LEGAL/ ACCOUNTING POSITION, SHOULD BEAR THIS POSSIBILITY IN
MIND. EMBASSY IS, OF COURSE, PREPARED SUPPORT EFFORT OBTAIN
MORE EQUITABLE CEPS TAX AND TARIFFS SCHEDULES, BUT BELIEVES
ANY SUCH SUPPORT SHOULD BE HELD IN RESERVE IN CASE FRENCH SEEM
READY MAKE A POLITICAL ISSUE OUT OF PROBLEM. BARRING FRENCH
RAISING CEPS WITH US HERE, WE WILL RELY ON US NATO' S
JUDGMENT, BASED ON COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS RE WHEN OR IF WE
SHOULD WEIGH IN. UNTIL THEN, WE BELIEVE NEGOTIATIONS CAN
PROCEED ON " BUSINESSLIKE" BASIS.
IRWIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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Subject: CENTRAL EUROPE PIPELINE SYSTEM (CEPS)
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To: EUR
NATO
SECSTATE WASHDC
USCINCEUR
Type: TE
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